

Minutes of 16th Meeting of the Informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender June 12, 2025

The informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender held its 15th meeting on April 24, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Geneva time to discuss the working group report and future to be conveyed at the 9th Competition and Consumer protection Review Conference.

The secretariat opened the meeting by thanking the support of member States on the topic of consumer protection and gender, and the work carried out by the subgroup members on drafting a checklist to include the gender lens in the work of consumer protection.

The UNCTAD explained the current challenges in achieving consensus over the terminology “gender” and highlighted that it is the secretariat’s responsibility to achieve a checklist draft that is clear, easy to understand and well structured, that can be useful for the broader UNCTAD’s membership, considering developing countries’ challenges and needs. The secretariat clarified that the document is not yet ready to be submitted to this year’s 9th United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection | UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The secretariat also proposed and explained the steps for member States to submit the draft Checklist as a contribution by member States.

Apart from that, regarding the working group’s future, the secretariat explained that due to the UN liquidity crisis the suggestion is to suspend all informal working groups until further notice. Therefore, the secretariat share the proposed paragraph to the report of the report to the next [9th United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection | UN Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#)

25. Suspends until further notice the informal working groups on Consumer Protection and E-commerce, Consumer Product Safety, Consumer Protection and Gender established by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy and the informal working group on Cross-Border Cartels established by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy in light of the current United Nations secretariat liquidity crisis,

The secretariat acknowledged the support and dedication of member States and experts, namely, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Poland, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender		
16th Meeting – List of Participants		
Name	Organization	Country
Wassamba Neto	INADEC	Angola
Nadia Vassos	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Giulia Agricola	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Caroline Landry	Health Canada	Canada
Gloria Isabel Ortiz Castañeda	SIC Colombia	Colombia
Nataly Rojas Cuellar	SIC Colombia	Colombia
Natalia Leite	DGC	Portugal
Aleksandra Mrozowska-Sroka	Polish Office of Competition and Consumer Protection	Poland
Caroline Hammarstedt	Swedish Consumer Agency	Sweden
Henna Sidhu	CMA	United Kingdom
Laura Best	Consumer Expert	South Africa
Marie Gerardy	DGJUST	EU
Erico de Melo	CI	
Ana Cipriano		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)
Gouri Umesh		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)
Yves Kenfack		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)